<u>In the Claims</u>:

Please cancel claims 127-129, 131, 139-140, 142-144, 147-149, 151, 159-160, 162-164, 167-169, 171, 179-180, 182-184, 187-189, 191, 199-200 and 202-204. Further please add claims 206-277 and amend claims 130, 132, 141, 146, 150, 152, 161, 166, 170, 172, 181, 186, 190, 192 and 201 as shown in the following list of claims.

1-125. (Cancelled)

126. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating data comprising:

transmitting a first signal from a communication controller to at least one network node including a first node, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

receiving the first request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller;

transmitting a second signal from the communication controller to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

receiving the data transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the second signal.

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127-129. (Cancelled)

130. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 126, wherein the specified amount of data ~~requested~~ comprises a total number of ~~the~~ successive packets.

131. (Cancelled)

132. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 126, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller <u>and</u> <u>continuing after receipt of the first request signal transmitted to the communication</u> <u>controller</u>.

133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a third signal from the communication controller to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller; and

receiving the second request signal transmitted from the second node to the communication controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request

signal is received from the second node by the communication controller after transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data, and prior to receipt of all the data transmitted from the first node.

134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a third signal from the communication controller to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller; and

receiving the second request signal transmitted from the second node to the communication controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the communication controller prior to transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data.

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said first request signal and said data are received by the communication controller via a first channel, and wherein the second signal and the first signal are transmitted to the first node via a second channel.

136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 135, wherein the first channel is provided in a first frequency range, and wherein the second channel is provided in a second frequency range.

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 135, wherein the first request signal is provided on a separate frequency within the first frequency range than the data.

138. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said communication controller comprises a base station, and wherein said first node comprises a pager device.

139-140. (Cancelled)

141. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating data comprising:

transmitting a first signal from a communication controller to at least one network node including a first node, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller, wherein the specific timeslot is assigned exclusively to the first node by a signal sent from the communication controller to the first node, and wherein the specific timeslot is one of a series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller;

receiving the first request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller;

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transmitting a second signal from the communication controller to the first node

in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to

the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller, and said second

signal including an address identifying the first node; and

receiving the data transmitted from the first node to the communication controller

in response to the second signal.

142-144. (Cancelled)

145. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 141, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a third signal from the communication controller to at least one

network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a

second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal

to the communication controller; and

receiving the second request signal transmitted from the second node to the

communication controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request

signal is received from the second node by the communication controller after

transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for

transmitting the data, and prior to receipt of all the data transmitted from the first node.

146. (Currently Amended) A communication controller in a data network, the data

network including a plurality of nodes, the communication controller comprising:

a processor;

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a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the plurality of nodes,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first signal for transmission through the interface to at least a first one network node, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first request signal from the first node in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a second signal for transmission through the interface to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the data transmitted from the first node in response to the second signal.

147-149. (Cancelled)

150. (Currently Amended) The communication controller of claim 149 146, wherein the specified amount of data requested comprises a total number of the successive packets.

151. (Cancelled).

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152. (Currently Amended) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller <u>and continuing after receipt of the first request signal transmitted to the communication controller</u>.

153. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 146,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a third signal for transmission through the interface to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal transmitted from the second node in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the interface after transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data, and prior to receipt of all the data transmitted from the first node.

154. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of 146,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a third signal for transmission through the interface to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in

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which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal transmitted from the second node in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the interface prior to transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data.

155. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein said first request signal and said data are transmitted to the communication controller via a first channel, and wherein the second signal and the first signal are transmitted to the first node via a second channel.

156. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 155, wherein the first channel is provided in a first frequency range, and wherein the second channel is provided in a second frequency range.

157. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 156, wherein the first request signal is provided on a separate frequency within the first frequency range than the data.

158. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 146 wherein said communication controller comprises a base station, and wherein said first node comprises a pager device.

159-160. (Cancelled)

161. (Currently Amended) A communication controller in a data network, the data network including a plurality of nodes, the communication controller comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the plurality of nodes,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first signal for transmission through the interface to at least a first one network node, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller, wherein the specific timeslot is assigned exclusively to the first node by a signal sent from the communication controller to the first node, and wherein the specific timeslot is one of a series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first request signal from the first node in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller,

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wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a second signal for transmission through the interface to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller, and said second signal including an address identifying the first node, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the data transmitted from the first node in response to the second signal.

162-164 (Cancelled)

165. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 161,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a third signal for transmission through the interface to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal transmitted from the second node in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the interface after transmission of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data, and prior to receipt of all the data transmitted from the first node.

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166. (Currently Amended) A first network node in a data network, the data network including a communication controller and a plurality of nodes, the first network node comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first signal from the communication controller, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first request signal for transmission through the interface to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a second signal from the communication controller in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the data through the interface to the communication controller in response to the second signal.

167-169. (Cancelled)

170. (Currently Amended) The first network node of claim ~~169~~ 166, wherein the specified amount of data ~~requested~~ comprises a total number of ~~the~~ successive packets.

171. (Cancelled)

172. (Currently Amended) The first network node of claim 166, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first network node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after receipt of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing after transmission of the first request signal to the communication controller.

173. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 166,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which a second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal transmitted from the second node in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the interface after receipt of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting

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the data, and prior to transmission of all the data from the interface in response to the second signal.

174. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 166,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a second request signal for transmission through the interface to the communication controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is received from the second node by the interface prior to receipt of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first network node to transmit the data.

175. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 166, wherein said first request signal and said data are transmitted to the communication controller via a first channel, and wherein the second signal and the first signal are transmitted to the first network node via a second channel.

176. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 175, wherein the first channel is provided in a first frequency range, and wherein the second channel is provided in a second frequency range.

177. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 176, wherein the first request signal is provided on a separate frequency within the first frequency range than the data.

178. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 166, wherein said communication controller comprises a base station, and wherein said network nodes comprise pager devices.

179-180. (Cancelled)

181. (Currently Amended) A first network node in a data network, the data network including a communication controller and a plurality of nodes, the first network node comprising:

    a processor;

    a memory; and

    at least one interface for communicating with the communication controller,

        wherein the interface is configured to receive a first signal from the communication controller, the first signal including information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller, wherein the specific timeslot is assigned exclusively to the first node by a signal received from the communication controller, and wherein the specific timeslot is one of a series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests, the series of

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timeslots occurring repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first request signal for transmission through the interface to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a second signal from the communication controller in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting the data to the communication controller, and said second signal including an address identifying the first network node; and

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the data through the interface to the communication controller in response to the second signal.

182-184. (Cancelled)

185. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 181,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which a second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller, and

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wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal

transmitted from the second node in response to the third signal, wherein the second

request signal is received from the second node by the interface after receipt of the

second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting

the data, and prior to transmission of all the data from the interface in response to the

second signal.

186. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating data comprising:

receiving a first signal transmitted from a communication controller at a first

network node, the first signal including information relating to a first timeslot in which

the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

transmitting from the first node to the communication controller a first request

signal in response to receipt of the first signal, the first request signal including a request

for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the

communication controller;

receiving a second signal from the communication controller transmitted to the

first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal including information

specifying at least one timeslot allocated to the first node for transmitting the data to the

communication controller; and

transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller in

response to the second signal.

187-189. (Cancelled)

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190. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~189~~ 186, wherein the specified amount of data ~~requested~~ comprises a total number of ~~the~~ successive packets.

191. (Cancelled)

192. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 186, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after receipt of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing after transmission of the first request signal to the communication controller.

193. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 186, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal including information relating to at least one network node including a second node, the third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller; and

transmitting the second request signal from the second node to the communication controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is transmitted after receipt of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data, and prior to transmission of all the data from the first node.

194. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 186, further comprising the steps of:

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receiving a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal

including information relating to at least one network node including a second node, the

third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the

second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller; and

transmitting from the second node to the communication controller the second

request signal in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is

transmitted from a second node prior to receipt of the second signal allocating the at least

one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data.

195. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 186, wherein said first request signal

and said data are transmitted to the communication controller via a first channel, and

wherein the second signal and the first signal are transmitted to the first node via a second

channel.

196. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 195, wherein the first channel is a

provided in a first frequency range, and wherein the second channel is provided in a

second frequency range.

197. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 196, wherein the first request signal is

provided on a separate frequency within the first frequency range than the data.

198. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 186, wherein said communication

controller comprises a base station, and wherein said first node comprises a pager device.

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199-200. (Cancelled)

201. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating data comprising:

receiving a first signal transmitted from a communication controller at a first

network node, the first signal including information relating to a first timeslot in which

the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller, wherein

the specific timeslot assigned exclusively to the first node by a signal received from the

communication controller, and wherein the specific timeslot is one of a series of timeslots

where the network nodes can transmit requests, the series of timeslots occurring

repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller;

transmitting from the first node to the communication controller a first request

signal including a request for allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of

data from the first node to the communication controller;

receiving a second signal from the communication controller transmitted to the

first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal including information

specifying at least one timeslot allocated to the first node for transmitting the data to the

communication controller, and said second signal including an address identifying the

first node; and

transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller in

response to the second signal.

202-204. (Cancelled).

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205. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 201, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a third signal from the communication controller, the third signal

including information relating to at least one network node including a second node, the

third signal including information relating to a second specific timeslot in which the

second node may transmit a second request signal to the communication controller; and

transmitting the second request signal from the second node to the communication

controller in response to the third signal, wherein the second request signal is transmitted

after receipt of the second signal allocating the at least one timeslot to the first node for

transmitting the data, and prior to transmission of all the data from the first node.

206. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first

node may transmit as identified by the first signal is assigned exclusively to the first node

by the communication controller.

207. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first

node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the

nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be

in contention for the specific timeslot with another one of the nodes.

208. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the series of timeslots where the network

nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly throughout operation of the communication

controller.

209. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

210. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein at least some of the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly are each exclusively assigned to a single one of the nodes for providing a request to transmit data.

211. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

212. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

213. (New) A method of communicating data comprising:

transmitting a first signal from a communication controller to at least one network node including a first node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

receiving the first request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including

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a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller;

transmitting a second signal from the communication controller to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller;

receiving the second request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the second signal;

transmitting a third signal from the communication controller to the first node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

receiving the data transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the third signal.

214. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the at least onec timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

215. (New) The method of claim 214, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

216.   (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

217. (New)   The method of claim 216, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

218. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

219. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

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220. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

221. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal.

222. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

223. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

224. (New) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

225. (New) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the specific timeslot with another one of the nodes.

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226. (New) The communication controller of claim 152, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly throughout operation of the communication controller.

227. (New) The communication controller of claim 152, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

228. (New) The communication controller of claim 152, wherein at least some of the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly are each exclusively assigned to a single one of the nodes for providing a request to transmit data.

229. (New) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

230. (New) The communication controller of claim 146, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

231. (New) A communication controller in a data network, the data network including a plurality of nodes, the communication controller comprising:

a processor;

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a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the plurality of nodes,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first signal for transmission through the interface to at least a first one network node including the first node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first request signal from the first node in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a second signal for transmission through the interface to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal from the first node in response to the second signal;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a transmit a third signal through the interface to the first node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the data transmitted from the first node in response to the third signal.

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232. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

233. (New) The communication controller of claim 232, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

234. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

235. (New) The communication controller of claim 234, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly

after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

236. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

237. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

238. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

239. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal.

240. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

241. (New) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

242. (New) The first network node of claim 166, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

243. (New) The first network node of claim 166, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the specific timeslot with another one of the nodes.

244. (New) The first network node of claim 172, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly throughout operation of the communication controller.

245. (New) The first network node of claim 172, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

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246. (New) The first network node of claim 172, wherein at least some of the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly are each exclusively assigned to a single one of the nodes for providing a request to transmit data.

247. (New) The first network node of claim 166, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

248. (New) The first network node of claim 166, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

249. (New) A first network node in a data network, the data network including a communication controller and a plurality of nodes, the first network node comprising:

    a processor;

    a memory; and

    at least one interface for communicating with the communication controller,

        wherein the interface is configured to receive a first signal from the communication controller, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

        wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first request signal for transmission through the interface to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request to transmit a

second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a second signal from the communication controller in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the second request signal in response to the second signal;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a third signal from the communication controller in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting data to the communication controller; and

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the data in response to the third signal.

250. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

251. (New) The first network node of claim 250, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

252. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

253. (New) The first network node of claim 252, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

254. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

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255. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

256. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

257. (New) The method of claim 213, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal.

258. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

259. (New) The first network node of claim 249, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

260. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

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261. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein the specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the specific timeslot with another one of the nodes.

262. (New) The method of claim 192, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly throughout operation of the communication controller.

263. (New) The method of claim 192, wherein the series of timeslots where the network nodes can transmit requests occurs repeatedly without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

264. (New) The method of claim 192, wherein at least some of the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly are each exclusively assigned to a single one of the nodes for providing a request to transmit data.

265. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

266. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

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267. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating data comprising:

receiving a first signal transmitted from a communication controller at a first network node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

transmitting from the first node a first request signal including a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

receiving a second signal from the communication controller transmitted to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting a second request signal to transmit the data to the communication controller;

transmitting the second request signal from the first node to the communication controller in response to the second signal;

receiving a third signal from the communication controller transmitted to the first network node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

transmitting the data from the first network node to the communication controller in response to the third signal.

268. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the

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nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

269. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

270. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

271. (New) The method of claim 270, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

272. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

273. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

274. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

275. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal.

276. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

277. (New) The method of claim 267, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

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